

Technical Data

M-MacConkey Broth

M1125

M-MacConkey Broth is recommended for detection of lactose fermenting and nonfermenting enteric bacteria using membrane filter technique.

Composition**

Ingredients	Gms / Litre
Peptic digest of animal tissue	10.000
Bile salts	4.000
Sodium chloride	5.000
Lactose	30.000
Bromocresol purple	0.120
Final pH (at 25°C)	7.4 ± 0.2

**Formula adjusted, standardized to suit performance parameters

Directions

Suspend 49.12 grams in 1000 ml distilled water. Heat if necessary to dissolve the medium completely. Distribute into tubes with inverted Durham tubes and sterilize by autoclaving at 15 lbs pressure (121°C) for 15 minutes.

Principle And Interpretation

MacConkey broth is widely used as a differential medium for detection and enumeration of coliforms from wide variety of clinical samples, food, water etc. which can be identified by colour change of the medium specific to the indicator used (1,2). Peptic digest of animal tissue provides necessary nitrogen source. Lactose serves as fermentable carbohydrate source. Sodium chloride maintains osmotic balance of the cells. The selective action of this medium is attributed to bile salts, which are inhibitory to most species of gram-positive bacteria. Gram-negative bacteria usually grow well on the medium and are differentiated by their ability to ferment lactose. The colour change of the medium shown by lactose fermentors is due to production of acid from lactose and a subsequent colour change of the dye when the pH of medium falls below 6.8. Lactose non-fermenting strains, such as *Shigella* and *Salmonella* do not alter the appearance of the medium. Due the presence of bromocresol purple in the medium, *Escherichia coli* changes the colour of the medium to yellow due to lactose fermentation and colourless to slight pink in case of nonfermenters.

M-MacConkey Broth is recommended for the detection and enumeration of lactose fermenting enteric bacteria from milk and water using membrane filter technique (3). Saturate sterile absorbent cotton - pads with M-MacConkey Broth. The membrane filter is then aseptically placed on the saturated sterile absorbent cotton pads.

Quality Control

Appearance Cream to yellow homogeneous free flowing powder

Colour and Clarity of prepared medium

Purple coloured clear solution without any precipitate

Reaction

Reaction of 4.91% w/v aqueous solution at 25°C. pH : 7.4 \pm 0.2

pН

7.20-7.60

Cultural Response

M1125: Cultural characteristics observed after an incubation at 35 - 37°C for 18 - 24 hours.

Organism	Inoculum	Growth	Colour of
	(CFU)		colony (on
			membrane
			filter)

Escherichia coli ATCC 25922	50-100	luxuriant	yellow
Enterobacter aerogenes ATCC 13048	50-100	luxuriant	yellow
Salmonella Typhimurium ATCC 14028	50-100	fair - good	colourless to slightly pink
Staphylococcus aureus ATCC 25923	>=10 ³	inhibited	6 9 F

Storage and Shelf Life

Store below 30°C in tightly closed container and the prepared medium at 2 - 8°C. Use before expiry date on the label.

Reference

1. MacConkey, 1900, The Lancet, ii:20.

2. MacConkey, 1905, J. Hyg., 5:333.

3. Harrigan W.F. and McCance M.E. (Eds.), 1976, Laboratory Methods in Food and Dairy Microbiology, Academic Press, London.

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